

ON A SHEEP RANCH.

DISMAL LIFE LED BY THE WRETCHED MEXICAN HERDERS.

An Excruciating Monotony About the Business of Sheep-Herding—The Mexican Herder on Duty—Hard Work and Far from Exciting—Dogs.

This is a fine sheep country about here, and the principal ranch on Calamity creek is said to be the largest in the state. I don't know the exact number of sheep owned by the proprietor of this ranch, but it must run up into the hundreds of thousands. Twenty years ago he was a bankrupt wool merchant, in feeble health; to-day he is a ruddy-faced, hale and hearty man of 70, whose check is good for \$100,000 any day. With an original plant of 600 ewes, his flock has steadily increased to its present proportions and they literally roam on a thousand hills. Sheep require a good deal of care and attention and every man who undertakes sheep raising is not successful at it. A man who invests in horned cattle will get rich in spite of himself. It requires a peculiar sort of business sagacity to manage sheep and make the investment a paying one. Out here they are principally Mexicans, although necessity forces a few white men to turn to the business temporarily as a means of livelihood. They never stay long at it, however. There is an excruciating monotony about sheep-herding which causes a white man to wish he had never been born after a few months' experience. Now that the railroad has been put through a great many big sheep men are importing Chinamen from California to take the place of the Mexicans, who require a great deal of watching.

THE MEXICAN SHEEP-HERDER.

The warden of a Mexican sheep-herder are few. His ration is a half peck of corn meal, a handful of salt and a double handful of chilies per day. With this humble commissariat he will keep up life. His idea of luxury is an occasional dram of mescal or aguardiente and plenty of corn husks and tobacco, out of which he manufactures that indispensable accessory to Mexican well-being, the cigar. A Mexican usually engages in sheep-herding at a tender age and once began rarely relinquishes it. A Mexican is conservative and content with the established order of things. They have made no progress in 50 years. This fact makes them good sheep-herders. Conservatism and lack of progress are prime requisites in a sheep-herder. After a year's faithful apprenticeship at sheep-herding a Mexican boy has the trade learned and is ready to peon himself for life. He usually does. I have known a Mexican herder, after twenty-five years' faithful service, to die as many hundred dollars in debt to the man whose flock he has carefully tended for a quarter of a century. That is where sheep-herding pays.

We will suppose, by way of illustration, that a practical herder has been engaged to run a flock, and in the early morning, as the first gray streaks of dawn appear in the eastern sky he sallies forth to take charge of his woolly flock, who are beginning to awake and leave their bedding-places. If he is a Mexican, he looks extremely picturesque in his bright blue jacket, with its double row of silver buttons, which, by the way, are not for use, but solely for ornament, for a Mexican never buttons his jacket, else he would hide his gaudy calico shirt. On his other limbs are leggings of leather or buckskin, to protect his legs from the sharp thorns through which he will be forced to march. These are kept in place by a crimson, orange or blue sash, over which is buckled a broad belt full of cartridges. On his head is the inevitable sombrero, with its ornamentation of gold and silver lace. If he is a sensible man, his serape will be tied over one shoulder and under the opposite arm and he will carry a Winchester rifle and a sharp butcher knife.

THE HERDER WHEN ON DUTY.

As the sheep begin to move off he saunters slowly along behind them, keeping a sharp lookout for stragglers. Sheep do not travel fast, but they keep moving. At meridian they will begin to feed back toward the bedding-places. There the herder will eat his humble dinner of tortillas and chili, washed down by a draught of water, if he is fortunate enough to be in the vicinity of a spring or water hole. About sundown the sheep will reach their camp and begin to select beds for the night. The herder has a rude shelter near by. He builds himself a fire and cooks his tortillas. Possibly he may have killed a quail or a jack rabbit during the day. If so, he makes a savory soup. Then he smokes his cigar and walks around the flock to see that none are missing. If all is well he returns to his camp and, rolling himself in his serape, lies down. He may have a good night's sleep and he may not. A careful herder will be aroused if a single sheep moves and will immediately rise up to see what the matter is. If a bear or cougar or tiger-cat is lurking about he will hunt for the varmints and either kill him or frighten him away. Above all things he must guard against a stampede, for if the timid sheep once get started there is no stopping them—the herd would become scattered, many would be lost and the herder would be charged up with the missing sheep.

In the lambing season his duties are more arduous and he is often up all night. Then he must watch for the appearance of "scabs" or any of the other countless diseases to which sheep are subject; and report to the captain, who makes known the fact through the regular channel to the ranch superintendent. If it is the scab, the sheep are driven up to the ranch and run through a dip. I helped dip a lot of sheep once. It is hard work and far from exciting. In fact, everything pertaining to sheep is like the foolish animals, tame and uninteresting. The sheep are sheared once a year, usually in May. This is the sheep man's harvest and the big pile of wool which rewards him represents the profits of the business.

Some of the herders have dogs—dogs peculiar to the frontier, with more or less wolf blood in their veins. They are a surly and unsocial brute and far from handsome. They are susceptible, however, of a high degree of education and their sagacity in the matter of tending sheep is something marvelous. I have known dogs that would herd 2,000 sheep, unaided, and never lose an animal. The sheepman opposes dogs. They say it makes the herders lazy and careless. They neglect their duty and depend upon the judgment and sagacity of the dog to run things.—Texas Cor. Philadelphia Times.

Beautiful Currant Jelly in France. M. Charles Girard, chemist of Paris, recently amused himself by investigation of the ingredients of a beautiful red currant jelly charmingly put up for export to the United States. There was not an atom of fruit in the mass, as was demonstrated by the adding to it of methylated alcohol, which would have turned it green had it contained any fruit acid. It was found to consist of gelatine, sweetened with glycerine residue colored with pichette and poisonous mineral extract, and flavored with no one knows what. A great many people in this country imagine no currant jelly so good as that which is imported from France.—Boston Budget.

General Advertisements.

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THIS POPULAR BINDERY, located at 106 Fort Street, ADVERTISES NO SPECIALITIES, but is able to do ALL sorts, sizes, and conditions of Book-binding, Ruling, Perforating, Numbering, Lettering, and Paper-cutting as well as in San Francisco, and at moderate prices.

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Livery, Boarding, and Sale Stables.

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Excellent Saddle Horses for Ladies and Gentlemen. Guaranteed Gentle.

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JAS. DODD, Proprietor

General Advertisements.

This Space is Reserved for
C. HUSTACE, GROCER,
King Street, Honolulu.

THE DAILY HERALD.

To-day, September 1st, 1886, is issued the first number of THE DAILY HERALD, a morning newspaper, to be printed for the proprietor under contract by the "Press Publishing Company," Merchant street, Honolulu.

Price Six Dollars per Annum or Fifty Cents per Month.

All who receive a copy of the initial or any succeeding number are respectfully

INVITED TO SUBSCRIBE.

Business men are solicited to test the advantages of THE DAILY HERALD as an

ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

A large edition will be printed each day, to be circulated in Honolulu and throughout the Islands, regardless of subscriptions, until a regular paying list of subscribers is obtained on the public becoming acquainted with the merits of the paper.

The DAILY HERALD will furnish a fresh and readable record of events in city and country. It will also give, from time to time as received, a summary of the latest news from the outside world, in concise and systematic form.

The DAILY HERALD will follow a straightforward, consistent, independent and moderate course in the discussion of public affairs. It will not be the servile organ of any clique, faction or party. At the same time an earnest support will be given to measures promotive of the public welfare, and to individuals or organizations that may appear in the political field, with claims to popular confidence backed by worthy records and unassailable principles.

The undersigned would, however, rather point to his record as a journalist in this city for the past two years, as conductor of the *Daily Bulletin*, than make promises that, in general estimation, are valueless until justified by performance. He can only pledge himself to do his best to produce a thorough, an influential, and in every way acceptable, daily newspaper.

Try the "Daily Herald" for a month at least.

DANIEL LOGAN,
Editor and Proprietor.

Honolulu, Sept. 1, 1886.

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(LIMITED).

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No. 29 Merchant Street, Honolulu,

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Try it and you will never be without it.

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Sacks Beans, White, Sacks Beans, Red, Sacks Beans, Bayou, Sacks Beans, Horse, Sacks Beans, Lima

SACKS POTATOES, BEST in GUNNIES

Cases NICHOLS,

Cases Extra Soda Crackers, Cases Medium Bread, Cases Assorted Wheat, 10 lb. bags, Cases Corn Meal, white, 10 lb. bags, Cases Corn Meal, 10 lb. bags, Cases Corn Starch.

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Cases Whitney's Butter, in tins, Half tubs Butter, 5 lb. Edge, Gr. Ricins Butter, 5 lb. Edge

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Boxes and tins. Salt Codfish, Bble Tins Columbia River Salmon

Cases Laundry Starch, Bales Brown Laundry Soap

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Boxes Raisins, London Layers, 1/2 boxes Raisins, London Layers, Boxes Raisins, Muscatel

Drums Citron, Bales Currants, Cases Chocolate, Cases Mixed Pickles, Cases Spices, assorted, all sizes

Sacks English Walnuts, Sacks Soft Shell Almonds,

Cases California Honey, 1 lb. tin, Cases King, Morse & Co.'s, fresh canned Fruits, Jellies and Vegetables, Bales Wrapping Paper, extra quality

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